ALASKA'S 2003 CROP AND WEATHER REVIEW

JANUARY & FEBRUARY

Above normal temperatures continued into the new year across most of Alaska. Precipitation levels were generally 50% below normal in January, but by February were recorded as 25% above normal in Southcentral and 2 1/2 times above normal in Fairbanks. Much of the precipitation in February fell as rain, causing the restart of the Iditarod to move north to Fairbanks.

MARCH & APRIL

Temperatures were generally below normal in March but were above normal in April in most locations. Precipitation was well below normal both months with the Fairbanks area receiving only 7% of normal precipitation in March and 24% of normal in April. Southcentral had 50% and 33% of normal precipitation, respectively.

MAY

Temperatures were very close to normal during most of May, while precipitation was generally below normal. Field work was underway by the first week of May in the Mat-Su Valley and barley planting was underway in Delta Junction by the second week. By month's end 95% of the barley crop and 85% of the oat and potato crops were planted. Barley and oats were both reported as 5% emerged. Potatoes were 55% planted, while vegetables were being transplanted across the state.

JUNE

Temperatures remained near normal for the month. Precipitation was well below normal in the Tanana Valley, and 10% below normal in Southcentral Alaska. Barley was 50% in boot, while the oat crop was 40% in boot as the month ended. Potatoes were 75% emerged and hay harvest was a quarter complete. Harvest of vegetables continued.

JULY

Temperatures varied across the state with Southcentral being above normal for the month and the Tanana Valley being below normal. Precipitation continued to be below normal in Southcentral but the Fairbanks area set a new record for rainfall for the month, as rain fell across the Tanana Valley. Rains hampered the hay harvest near Delta mid-month. Statewide the first cutting of hay was 95% complete by month's end. Ten percent of the barley was turning color, while the oat crop was 30% in dough. Both crops were rated as 90% fair to good. Potatoes were 40% in bloom.

AUGUST

Conditions varied across the state with the Tanana Valley having normal temperatures with just above normal precipitation. Southcentral saw above normal temperatures with below normal rains. Potatoes, barley, oats, and vegetables were all being harvested by the end of the month. Harvest of a second cutting of hay continued.

SEPTEMBER

Mid-month several hard frosts were reported in the Delta Junction area that severely damaged the potato crop. Less severe damage was also reported around Palmer. Overall, temperatures were slightly cooler than normal, while precipitation was above normal in the Tanana Valley and below normal in Mat-Su. Our last report in September had both the barley and oat harvests 90% complete, and the potato harvest at 70% complete. State hay supplies were reported as 20% short and 80% adequate.

OCTOBER - DECEMBER

Temperatures were well above normal in October. November saw continued warmer than normal temperatures in the Tanana Valley, with cooler than normal temperatures in Mat-Su. December saw cooler than normal temperatures in most locations. Precipitation was below normal in the Tanana Valley for the three month period, while the Mat-Su Valley was significantly above normal. The end of the year saw a good snow cover on the ground in many areas. This was said to be the first "normal" winter in several years.

ALASKA PRECIPITATION DATA (Inches)

Station	2003 Precipitation							2003 Snow	Average Precipitation 1/						
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Year		Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Year
TANANA VALLEY															
Fairbanks Ap.	**0.05**	**0.27**	**0.61**	**5.96**	**1.89**	**1.27**	**13.85**	55	0.27	0.58	1.32	1.89	1.88	1.05	10.57
University Exp. Sta.	**na**	**na**	**na**	**na**	**na**	**na**	**na**	59	0.25	0.67	1.57	2.11	2.34	1.26	12.24
Eielson Field	**0.07**	**0.17**	**1.64**	**5.30**	**2.74**	**1.77**	**13.19**	36	0.34	0.75	1.72	2.51	2.35	1.38	13.02
Big Delta Ap.	**0.03**	**0.32**	**0.31**	**3.63**	**1.73**	**1.29**	**7.87**	na	0.25	0.86	2.27	2.66	2.01	1.09	11.47
MATANUSKA VALLEY															
Anchorage Ap.	**0.17**	**0.67**	**0.95**	**1.23**	**2.34**	**1.96**	**16.68**	78	0.54	0.67	1.01	1.90	2.67	2.60	15.70
Lazy Mountain	**0.35**	**1.24**	**0.71**	**2.39**	**3.16**	**1.37**	**17.15**	72	0.42	1.00	1.33	2.08	3.09	2.90	19.02
Matanuska Exp. Sta.	**0.15**	**0.89**	**0.82**	**2.19**	**1.99**	**1.24**	**12.55**	43	0.45	0.73	1.38	2.21	2.57	2.44	15.36
Sutton 2 E	**0.31**	**0.99**	**0.83**	**3.74**	**2.84**	**1.26**	**21.39**	78	0.48	0.91	1.40	2.46	2.77	2.94	17.55
KENAI PENINSULA															
Homer Ap.	**0.97**	**0.80**	**1.45**	**0.68**	**3.46**	**1.05**	**20.62**	na	1.20	1.02	0.97	1.58	2.53	3.00	25.08
Kenai Ap.	**0.31**	**0.98**	**1.86**	**1.37**	**3.19**	**1.33**	**19.75**	na	0.74	0.93	1.19	1.94	2.68	3.26	19.39
OTHER AREAS															
Kodiak Ap.	**3.96**	**1.62**	**6.63**	**3.36**	**7.82**	**8.31**	**87.69**	66	5.48	5.70	5.45	4.14	4.54	7.78	77.24
Nome Ap.	**1.10**	**0.42**	**1.52**	**2.04**	**3.98**	**0.88**	**17.62**	80	0.71	0.72	1.06	2.19	3.31	2.47	15.98
McGrath Ap.	**0.36**	**1.37**	**2.21**	**4.74**	**2.27**	**1.43**	**22.28**	76	0.70	0.93	1.53	2.30	2.95	2.28	17.36
Juneau Ap.	**0.86**	**2.90**	**3.74**	**3.44**	**4.53**	**11.41**	**54.13**	76	2.86	3.47	3.12	4.34	5.39	7.30	56.67
Cold Bay Ap.	**1.76**	**2.03**	**2.44**	**2.45**	**4.43**	**3.62**	**39.87**	61	2.13	2.57	2.47	2.46	3.76	4.28	38.55

1/ Averages based on Historical records from 50 or more years of data, if available.

Source: Climatological Data Annual Summary (Alaska) published by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

ALASKA TEMPERATURE DATA

Station	2003 Averages					Historical Averages 1/					Average No. of Freeze Free days 2/	Elevation in Feet
	Year	Jan	Apr	Jul	Sep	Year	Jan	Apr	Jul	Sep		
	Degrees										Days	Feet
TANANA VALLEY												
Fairbanks Ap.	29	-3	33	61	42	27	-10	31	62	45	112	436
University Exp. Sta.	28	1	33	61	41	28	-7	31	61	45	91	475
Eielson Field	39	na	34	61	41	26	-10	31	61	45	108	547
Big Delta Ap.	31	6	33	60	39	28	-3	31	60	44	105	1,268
MATANUSKA VALLEY												
Anchorage Ap.	39	22	38	62	49	36	15	36	58	48	138	114
Lazy Mountain	37	22	37	59	46	35	17	35	56	45	104	728
Matanuska Exp. Sta.	39	20	39	61	48	36	13	37	58	48	110	150
Sutton 2 E	38	22	39	60	47	36	16	37	57	46	77	550
KENAI PENINSULA												
Homer Ap.	41	32	39	57	48	38	23	36	53	47	115	89
Kenai Ap.	38	23	37	59	47	34	12	34	55	47	105	86
OTHER AREAS												
Kodiak Ap.	42	36	41	56	49	41	31	38	55	50	140	111
Nome Ap.	29	13	26	49	42	26	6	19	51	42	78	13
McGrath Ap.	29	-5	32	60	42	26	-8	28	59	44	105	344
Juneau Ap.	42	32	42	58	49	41	24	40	56	50	139	12
Cold Bay Ap.	41	33	37	51	48	38	28	34	51	48	133	90

1/ Averages based on Historical records from 50 or more years of data, if available.

2/ Average based on historical records, number of years used varies by location from 18 to 85 years.

Source: Climatological Data Annual Summary (Alaska) published by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

WEEKLY PAN EVAPORATION AND PRECIPITATION, 2000 - 2003 GROWING SEASON

Month/Week

	2000				2001				2002				**2003**			
	Evap	Total	Precip	Total	Evap	Total	Precip	Total	Evap	Total	Precip	Total	**Evap**	**Total**	**Precip**	**Total**
May-Week 1	1.19	1.19	0.01	0.01	0.04	0.04	0.35	0.35	0.60	0.60	0.06	0.06	**1.21**	**1.21**	**0.00**	**0.00**
Week 2	1.01	2.20	0.05	0.06	0.56	0.60	0.36	0.71	0.09	0.69	0.33	0.39	**0.16**	**1.37**	**0.35**	**0.35**
Week 3	0.22	2.42	0.71	0.77	0.75	1.35	0.12	0.83	0.97	1.66	0.15	0.54	**0.22**	**1.59**	**0.52**	**0.87**
Week 4	0.76	3.18	0.22	0.99	0.61	1.96	0.15	0.98	1.30	2.96	0.00	0.54	**0.75**	**2.34**	**0.02**	**0.89**
June-Week 1	1.15	4.33	0.02	1.01	1.17	3.13	0.03	1.01	0.70	3.66	0.30	0.84	**1.10**	**3.44**	**0.00**	**0.89**
Week 2	1.04	5.37	0.04	1.05	0.39	3.52	0.34	1.35	0.54	4.20	0.26	1.10	**1.31**	**4.75**	**0.01**	**0.90**
Week 3	0.70	6.07	0.20	1.25	0.43	3.95	0.48	1.83	1.00	5.20	0.01	1.11	**0.41**	**5.16**	**0.00**	**0.90**
Week 4	1.15	7.22	0.05	1.30	1.30	5.25	0.00	1.83	0.74	5.94	0.17	1.28	**0.62**	**5.78**	**0.10**	**1.00**
Week 5	-0.18	7.04	0.73	2.03	1.20	6.45	0.12	1.95	1.14	7.08	0.17	1.45	**0.91**	**6.69**	**0.00**	**1.00**
July-Week 1	0.20	7.24	0.60	2.63	-1.36	5.09	1.85	3.80	0.54	7.62	0.18	1.63	**1.09**	**7.78**	**1.09**	**2.09**
Week 2	0.41	7.65	0.26	2.89	-0.55	4.54	0.97	4.77	1.09	8.71	0.00	1.63	**1.27**	**9.05**	**0.00**	**2.09**
Week 3	-0.08	7.57	0.79	3.68	0.35	4.89	0.26	5.03	1.20	9.91	0.38	2.01	**1.22**	**10.27**	**0.00**	**2.09**
Week 4	0.33	7.90	0.35	4.03	0.01	4.90	0.52	5.55	-0.30	9.61	0.81	2.82	**0.12**	**10.39**	**0.58**	**2.67**
August-Week 1	0.49	8.39	0.17	4.20	-0.04	4.86	0.55	6.10	1.25	10.86	0.00	2.82	**0.56**	**10.95**	**0.44**	**3.11**
Week 2	0.63	9.02	0.14	4.34	0.84	5.70	0.00	6.10	-1.38	9.48	1.93	4.75	**1.04**	**11.99**	**0.05**	**3.16**
Week 3	0.20	9.22	1.06	5.40	-0.05	5.65	0.59	6.69	0.03	9.51	1.04	5.79	**-0.70**	**11.29**	**1.08**	**4.24**
Week 4	0.13	9.35	0.37	5.77	0.57	6.22	0.06	6.75	-1.26	8.25	1.45	7.24	**0.16**	**11.45**	**0.58**	**4.82**
Sept-Week 1	-0.16	9.19	0.54	6.31	0.32	6.54	0.10	6.85	-0.10	8.15	1.06	8.30	**0.17**	**11.62**	**0.28**	**5.10**
Week 2	0.26	9.45	0.16	6.47	0.81	7.35	1.73	8.58	-0.34	7.81	0.30	8.60	**-0.30**	**11.32**	**0.01**	**5.11**
Week 3	0.21	9.66	0.22	6.69	0.53	7.88	0.00	8.58	0.07	7.88	0.18	8.78	**0.02**	**11.34**	**0.61**	**5.72**
Week 4	-1.18	8.48	1.55	8.24	0.30	8.18	0.13	8.71	0.14	8.02	1.30	10.08	**-0.60**	**10.74**	**0.02**	**5.74**
Week 5	0.27	8.75	0.84	9.08	0.26	8.44	0.00	8.71	-1.16	6.86	0.00	10.08	**-0.50**	**10.24**	**0.41**	**6.15**
Seasonal Totals		8.75		9.08		8.44		8.71		6.86		10.08		**10.24**		**6.15**

NOTE: Weekly evaporation and precipitation (in inches) data is collected and provided by UAF, Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station, located on Trunk Road in Palmer, Alaska.